

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Independent schools welcome Government support to drought-affected schools

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) today welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of an additional \$10 million to support schools that cater for students in drought-affected areas.

ISCA's Executive Director, Barry Walleth, said that, "Independent boarding schools have a long history of supporting rural families and communities through drought and natural disaster. This has included measures such as fee relief. The assistance provided by the Government today will help ensure that students from communities struggling to cope with drought will continue to be supported to maintain their school education."

There are 376 Independent schools in Australia's rural, regional or remote areas. In addition, Independent schools are the largest providers of boarding school education in Australia, educating almost 16,000 students. Many of these students come from rural, regional and remote families affected by drought.

Mr Walleth added that, "The Government is to be commended for taking action to ease the financial burden the drought has placed on families, schools in drought-affected areas, and the boarding schools educating students from those areas."

The \$10 million to drought-affected schools announced today will be managed through the existing Special Circumstances program.

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